

We Claim:

1. A threaded connection for connecting first and second substantially cylindrical-shaped components having a pre-defined axial alignment, said
5 connection comprising:
- A. (i) a first set of threads provided on a first component connection end of said first component, and
(ii) a second set of threads provided on a second component connection end of said second component,
10 (iii) such that when said first and second components are disposed in said pre-defined axial alignment and said first component connection end abuts said second component connection end, said first set of threads and said second set of threads are synchronous; and
- 15 B. a connection collar adapted to be
(i) threaded onto said first component connection end before said first component connection end abuts said second component connection end, and
(ii) threaded onto said second component connection end, after said
20 second component connection end abuts said first component connection end and said first and second components are disposed in said pre-defined axial alignment, while said pre-defined axial alignment is maintained.
2. The threaded connection of claim 1 wherein said first set of threads is externally disposed on said first component connection end and said second set of threads is externally disposed on said second component connection end.
- 5 3. The threaded connection of claim 1 wherein said first set of threads is internally disposed on said first component connection end and said second

set of threads is internally disposed on said second component connection end.

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4. The threaded connection of claim 1 wherein said first component has one or more openings therein that align with one or more openings in said second component when said first and second components are disposed in said pre-defined axial alignment.

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5. The threaded connection of claim 4 wherein an item is disposed through at least one of said openings in said first component and through said aligned opening in said second component.

6. A threaded connection for connecting first and second substantially cylindrical-shaped components having a pre-defined axial alignment, said connection comprising:

- 5 A. (i) a first set of threads provided on a first component connection end of said first component,
- (ii) a second set of threads provided on a second component connection end of said second component, and
- (iii) said first and second components being disposed such that
- 10 (i) said first component connection end is separated from said second component connection end by such a distance that if said first set of threads and said second set of threads were continuous through said distance they would form a continuous-thread path between said first component and said second component, and (ii) said first and second components are disposed in said pre-defined axial alignment; and
- 15 B. a connection collar adapted to be (i) threaded onto said first component connection end before said first component connection end is separated from said second component connection end by said distance, and (ii) threaded onto said second component connection end, after said first

component connection end is separated from said second component
20 connection end by a distance and said first and second components are
disposed in said pre-defined axial alignment, while said pre-defined axial
alignment is maintained.

7. A threaded connection for connecting first and second substantially
cylindrical-shaped components having a pre-defined axial alignment, said
connection comprising:

- A. a spacer having a first spacer end and a second spacer end,
- 5 B. (i) a first set of threads having a first timing and provided on a
first component connection end of said first component, and
(ii) a second set of threads having a second timing and provided
on a second component connection end of said second component,
(iii) such that when said first component connection end abuts
10 said first spacer end of said spacer and said second component
connection end abuts said second spacer end of said spacer, when
said first and second components are disposed in said pre-defined
axial alignment, said first set of threads and said second set of threads
are synchronous; and
- 15 C. a connection collar adapted to be (i) threaded onto said first
component connection end before said first component connection end
abuts said first spacer end and said second spacer end abuts said
second component connection end, and (ii) threaded onto said second
component connection end, after said second component connection
20 end abuts said second spacer end and said first spacer end abuts said
first component connection end and said first and second components
are disposed in said pre-defined axial alignment, while said pre-defined
axial alignment is maintained.

8. A threaded connection for connecting first and second substantially cylindrical-shaped components having a pre-defined axial alignment, said connection comprising:

A. a spacer having a threaded end and a top end,

5 B. (i) a first set of threads having a first timing and provided on a first component connection end of said first component, and
(ii) a second set of threads having a second timing and provided on a second component connection end of said second component,
(iii) such that when said first component connection end is
10 attached to said threaded end of said spacer and said second component connection end abuts said top end of said spacer, when said first and second components are disposed in said pre-defined axial alignment, said first set of threads and said second set of threads are synchronous; and

15 C. a connection collar adapted to be (i) threaded onto said first component connection end before said first component connection end is attached to said threaded end of said spacer and said top end of said spacer abuts said second component connection end, and (ii) threaded onto said second component connection end, after said
20 second component connection end abuts said top end of said spacer and said threaded end of said spacer is attached to said first component connection end and said first and second components are disposed in said pre-defined axial alignment, while said pre-defined axial alignment is maintained.

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